

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated May 9, 2003, in the parent case, the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1, 10, 20, 26-27, and 31 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application, US 20010034250 ("*Chadha*"); 2) allowed claims 2-9, 11-12, 15-19, and 21-25; and 3) objected to claims 13-14, and 28-30 for depending upon a rejected base claim.

With this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 2-9, 11-19 and 21-23 in favor of those same claims in the parent case. Further, Applicants amend claims 1, 10 and 20, and present new claims 24-29. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a computer system comprising a device and a laptop computer coupled to the device by way of a communication bus, the communication bus comprising communication lines and power lines. The device determines if the laptop computer is capable of being powered across power lines of the communication bus by communication with the laptop across the power lines of the communication bus. The Examiner rejected claim 1 as allegedly anticipated by *Chadha*. Applicants amended claim 1 to more clearly indicate that the device determines if the laptop is capable of being powered by communication across the power lines.

"[F]or anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present." MPEP § 706.02. Claim 1 requires that the device determines if the laptop computer is capable of being powered across the power lines of the communication bus by communication with a laptop across the power lines of the communication bus. *Chadha* does not teach or fairly suggest making the claimed determination or communication across the power lines of the communication bus to make the determination.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as new claim 27 which depends from claim 1, should be allowed.

B. Claim 27

Claim 27 (claim 32 in the parent application) is directed to a computer system having all the limitations of claim 1 and further requiring that the laptop computer is capable of providing power to external devices across the communication bus when the laptop is not coupled to the device.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Chadha* teaches only that power may flow from the *Chadha* docking station 130 to the *Chadha* microcomputer unit 90. Claim 27, by contrast, requires not only that the device determines if the laptop computer is capable of being powered across the power lines of the communication bus, but also that the laptop computer is capable of providing power to external devices across the same communication bus when the laptop is not coupled to the device. *Chadha* fails to teach or fairly suggest these limitation of claim 27.

Claim 27 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional limitation therein.

C. Claim 10

Claim 10 is directed to a method of operating a computer system that comprises powering a laptop computer from a docking station across a USB interface with a voltage in excess of five volts. The Examiner rejected claim 10 as allegedly anticipated by *Chadha*. Applicants amended claim 10 to require that the powering be accomplished with a voltage in excess of five volts to more clearly distinguish over the teachings of *Chadha*.

Claim 10 requires powering the laptop computer from the docking station across a USB interface with a voltage in excess of five volts. In order to power a laptop through a USB interface in this manner, the claimed system breaks the standards USB protocol both in the direction of power flow and the voltage level on the power rails of the USB interface. "Under standard USB protocol, the laptop computer 100 provides power to USB devices downstream of the laptop computer 100." Specification, page 8, lines 19-20. "Under USB protocol, the power conductors 138 carry five volts." Specification, page 8, lines 9-10. *Chadha* does not teach or fairly suggest the departure from the USB protocol delineated in claim 10.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10, and all claims which depend from claim 10 (new claims 28 and 29), should be allowed.

D. Claim 20

Claim 20 is directed to a docking station comprising a docking logic that provides power to a laptop computer over power rails of the USB interface at a voltage of greater than five volts. The Examiner rejected claim 20 as allegedly anticipated by *Chadha*. Applicants amended claim 20 to require that the powering be accomplished with a voltage in excess of five volts to more clearly distinguish over the teachings of *Chadha*.

Chadha does not teach or fairly suggest a departure from USB protocol as delineated in claim 20.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 should be allowed.

E. Claim 24

Claim 24 (claim 26 in the parent application) is directed to a computer system comprising a device having power available therein, and a laptop computer coupled to the device by way of a communication bus operated under a communication protocol. The communication protocol allows for powering of an external device across communication bus power lines by the laptop computer. The laptop computer further is powered by the device across power lines of the communication bus. The Examiner rejected claim 26 of the parent application as allegedly anticipated by *Chadha*.

Chadha teaches that the microcomputer computer unit 90 may derive power from the docking station 130 through a connector, which may be a PCMCIA or USB connector. *Chadha* fails to teach powering of an external device by the microcomputer unit 90 across the same connector.

Claim 24, by contrast, specifically requires that the communication bus that powers the laptop when coupled to the device also operates under a communication bus protocol that allows for powering of an external device by the laptop across same communication bus. *Chadha* fails to teach or fairly suggest this limitation of claim 24.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 24, and all claims which depend from claim 24 (claims 25 and 26), should be allowed.

II. CONCLUSION

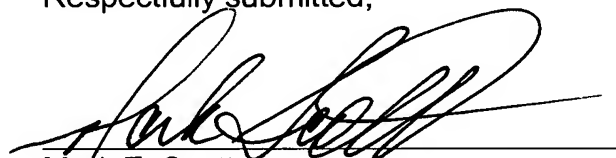
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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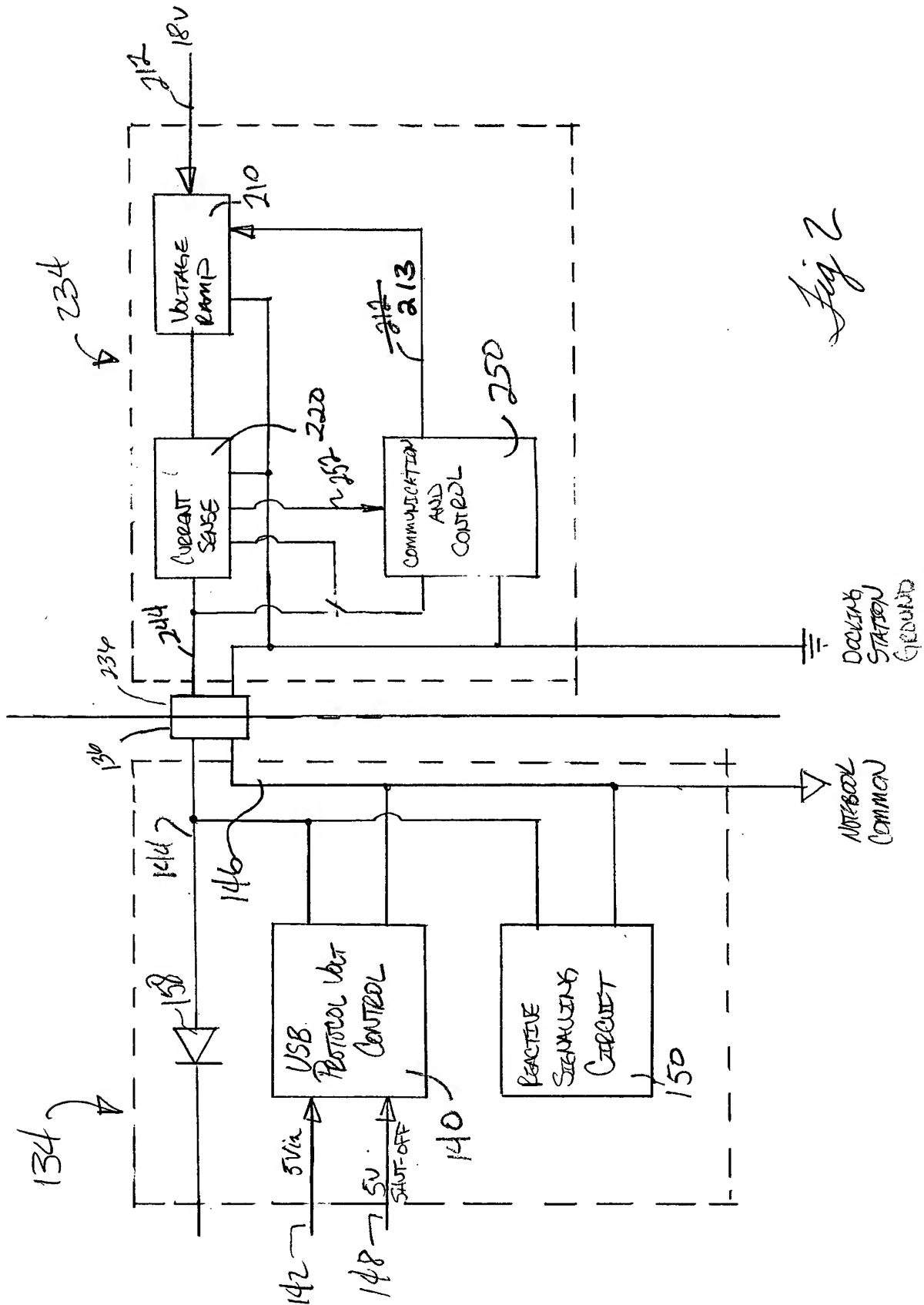


Fig. 2